



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. ARMY MATERIEL COMMAND
5001 EISENHOWER AVENUE, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22333 - 0001



AMCRD-IEE

1 March 1995

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Army Standardization Improvement Policy, Memo 95-1,
"Waivers for Use of Specifications and Standards"

1. References:

a. Army Standardization Improvement Policy, Memo 95-1,
"Waivers for Use of Specifications and Standards" (enclosure 1).

b. Memorandum, OASD, 22 Dec 94, subject: Policy Memo 95-1,
"Waivers for Use of Specifications and Standards" (enclosure 2).

2. These procedures are effective immediately. Future updates
of your Master Action Plan should, at a minimum, include a
reference to the implementation of this policy.

3. Points of contact for these procedures are COL Stanley Leja,
HQ AMC, ATTN: AMCRD-XS, DSN 284-6193, Commercial 703-274-6193,
e-mail: STANLEY_LEJA_at_CCNOTES%notes1@alexandria-emhl.army.mil
at CCSMTP@SMTP or Mr. James Knowles, HQ AMC, ATTN: AMCRD-IEE,
DSN 284-5101, Commercial 703-274-5101, e-mail: JAMES_KNOWLES_at_
CCNOTES%notes1@alexandria-emhl.army.mil at CCSMTP@SMTP.

4. AMC -- America's Arsenal for the Brave.

2 Encls

KENNETH J. OSCAR
Army Standardization
Improvement Executive

ARMY STANDARDIZATION IMPROVEMENT POLICY (ASIP)
MEMO 95-1,
"WAIVERS FOR USE OF SPECIFICATIONS AND STANDARDS"

1. General. Performance specifications and standards and non-government standards shall be used instead of government detail specifications and standards. For those cases when a government detail specification or standard is needed to define an exact design solution, the Army program office or buying command may use a government detail specification or standard, but only if a waiver is granted in accordance with the Army Implementation Plan (AIP) for the "Blueprint for Change: Toward a National Production Base" and subsequent Army Acquisition Organization (AAO) Master Action Plans (MAPs).

2. Applicability. A waiver is required only when the Army program office or buying activity cites a type of document listed in paragraph 3, below, as a requirement in a solicitation. However, documents listed in paragraph 3, below, placed on contract, as a result of an offeror proposal in response to a solicitation do not require a waiver.

3. Documents Requiring Waivers. Army program offices and buying commands shall obtain waivers when citing as requirements in solicitations, the types of government documents listed below:

- a. Detail MIL SPECS/STDs.
- b. Program unique detail specifications that define exact design solutions.
- c. Federal specifications and standards (FED SPECS/STDs), except for Federal Information Processing Standards or FED SPECS/STDs determined by a AAO Standards Executive (SE) to be performance based.
- d. Detail design Technical Data Packages (TDPs).
- e. Commercial item descriptions which reference detail MIL SPECS/STDs or TDPs.
- f. "Performance specifications," not yet certified in the DoD Index of Specifications and Standards (DODISS), which reference detail MIL SPECS/STDs which are not critical to the performance of the item.

*** GRAY-SHADED AREAS REPRESENT ARMY CHANGES OR SUPPLEMENTS TO THE DOD POLICY.

4. Documents Not Requiring Waivers. The following types of documents do not require waivers:

- a. Any document required by law, the Federal Acquisition Regulation, or the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement.
- b. Non-government standards.
- c. Federal Information Processing Standards.
- d. Government specifications designated in the DODISS as certified performance specifications.
- e. Commercial item descriptions which do not reference detail military specifications, standards or TDPs.
- f. Guide specifications listed in the DODISS.
- g. Interface standards listed in the DODISS determined by the AAO SE to be an interface standard IAW with the definition given in Appendix G of the AIP.
- h. Standard Practices listed in the DODISS determined by the AAO SE to be a standard practice IAW with the definition given in Appendix G of the AIP.
- i. Guides listed in the DODISS when specifically cited for "information" or "reference" only.
- j. Handbooks listed in the DODISS when specifically cited for "information" or "reference" only.
- k. Detail MIL SPECS/STDs when specifically cited for "information" or "reference" only.
- l. Detail product design TDPs when specifically cited for "information" or "reference" only.
- m. FED SPECS/STDs cited for "information" or "reference" only.
- n. Program unique specifications certified by the AAO SE to be performance-based.
- o. Documents inactivated for new design.

NOTE: It must be clearly stated in the solicitation what performance criteria will be used in evaluating proposals, and

that the documents cited for use as "information" or "reference" only represent only one possible acceptable solution. The waiver decision authority should challenge excessive listing of documents used for "information" or "reference" only, since such continued use may send the wrong message to potential contractors and does not promote acquisition cultural change.

5. Exemptions From The Waivers. It is not mandatory to obtain a waiver to use the types of documents identified in paragraph 3 above, for the following conditions:

- a. If the offeror proposes the use of a detail specification, standard or other prohibited document type in response to a solicitation.
- b. For specifications and standards under Federal Supply Group 11, Nuclear Ordnance and Federal Supply Class 4470, Nuclear Reactors.
- c. When a non-Army customer requires the use of a specification or standard.
- d. For combined or joint acquisition programs where another Service, federal agency or country has the lead in the design or acquisition of an item. This includes foreign military sales.
- e. If a prohibited document cited has been exempted from the waiver process.

NOTE: It must be clearly stated in the solicitation what performance criteria will be used in evaluating proposals, and if the offeror proposes the use of a specification, standard or other prohibited document types in response to a solicitation the proposal will be considered to be less than performance based. The proposal to use prohibited documents, or lack thereof, shall be used as part of the source selection criteria for contract award. Use of a specification, standard or other prohibited document types as a requirement in a contract, initiated by government or contractor, may send the wrong message to potential contractors and does not promote acquisition cultural change.

6. AAO-Wide and Department-Wide Exemptions From Waiver Process. The AAO SE may exempt any of the document types listed in paragraph 3, above, from their individual AAO MAP "for other than new ACAT programs" waiver process AAO-wide. All AAO exemptions of this nature must be reported to the Army SIE in writing within 30 days of the action. The Army SIE may exempt any of the other document types listed in paragraph 3, above, from the waiver process for their use in solicitations Army-wide. The exemptions must be reviewed every two years.

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7. Waiver Approval Process. The waiver approval process will be in accordance with the AIP for the "Blueprint for Change: Toward a National Production Base" and subsequent AAO MAPs. Program offices and buying commands shall submit waiver requests to the cognizant waiver decision authority. Waivers shall only be approved if:

- a. Mission impacts make the use of a NGS or an industrial-wide standard alternative unacceptable.
- b. Cost impacts make the use of a NGS or an industrial-wide standard alternative unacceptable.
- c. A program unique detail specification or MIL SPEC/STD is truly military unique.

8. Tracking Waiver Approvals. The waiver approvals shall be reported in accordance with Section II, Introduction, paragraph D and Appendix E, Reporting Requirements, of the AIP for the "Blueprint for Change: Toward a National Production Base." The Army Department Standardization Office (DepSO), HQ AMC, ATTN: AMCRD-IEE, shall provide the reporting (tracking) of approved waivers to the DoD Single Stock Point for listing in the Acquisition Streamlining and Standardization Information System (ASSIST) data base.